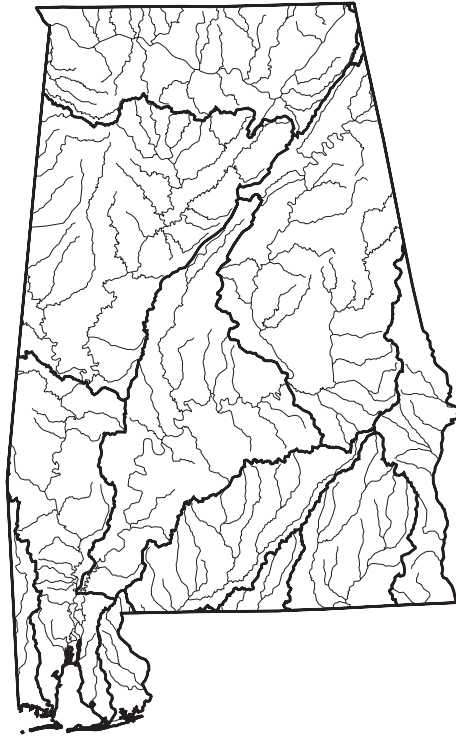


Alabama



— Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the Alabama 1996 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Since enactment of the Clean Water Act of 1972, water quality has substantially improved near industrial and municipal facilities. However, pollution still prevents about 29% of the surveyed stream miles and 17% of the surveyed lake acres from fully supporting aquatic life use. Oxygen-depleting wastes and nutrients are the most common pollutants impacting rivers and coastal waters. The leading sources of river pollution include agriculture, municipal wastewater treatment plants, and resource

extraction. In coastal waters, the leading sources of pollution are urban runoff and storm sewers and municipal point sources.

Toxic priority organic chemicals impact the most lake acres, usually in the form of a fish consumption advisory. These pollutants may accumulate in fish tissue at a concentration that greatly exceeds the concentration in the surrounding water. Unknown sources and industrial dischargers are responsible for the greatest acreage of impaired lake waters.

Special State concerns include impacts from forest clearcutting and lack of streamside management zones. Animal waste runoff is another special concern that is being dealt with on a case-by-case priority basis.

Ground Water Quality

The Geological Survey of Alabama monitoring well network indicates relatively good ground water quality. However, the number of ground water contamination incidents has increased significantly in the past few years due to better reporting under the Underground Storage Tank Program and increased public awareness of ground water issues. Alabama has established pesticide monitoring and a Wellhead Protection Program to identify non-point sources of ground water contamination and further protect public water supplies.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

In 1992, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) initiated the Flint Creek watershed project to simultaneously manage the many sources degrading Flint Creek, including intensive livestock and poultry operations, crop production, municipal dischargers, household septic systems, widespread littering, and urban runoff. Ongoing activities in the project include water quality and biological sampling and monitoring and GIS spatial data layer development. ADEM has increased use of the watershed protection approach with the initiation of the 5-year multistakeholder Choccolocco Creek Watershed Project begun in 1996.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

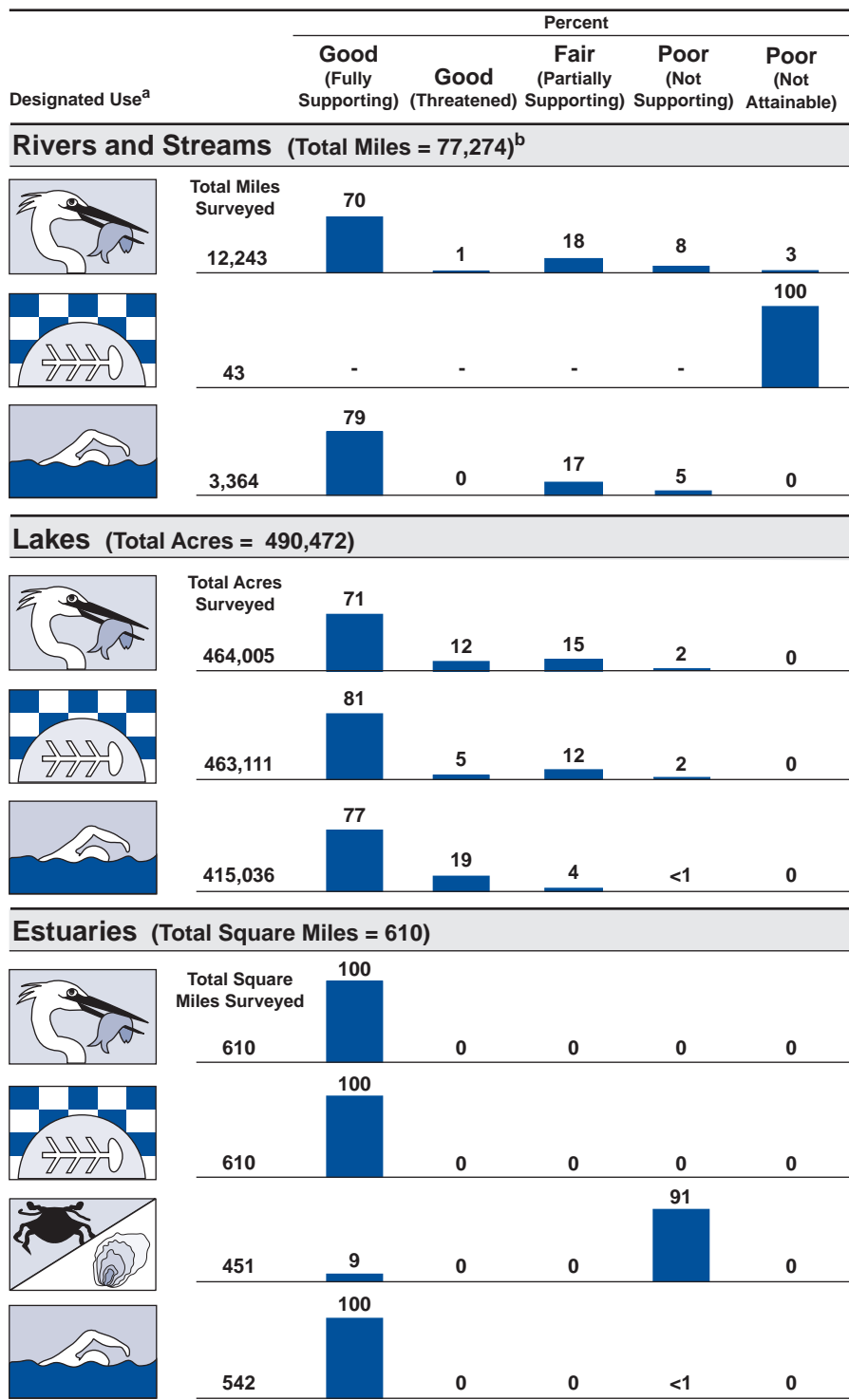
Alabama's surface water monitoring program includes a fixed station ambient network, reservoir sampling, fish tissue sampling, intensive wasteload allocation surveys, water quality demonstration surveys, and compliance monitoring of point source discharges. As a first step in establishing biological criteria, ADEM is assessing the habitats and corresponding resident biota at several candidate reference streams.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

^a A subset of Alabama's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the State's 305(b) report for a full description of the State's uses.

^b Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Individual Use Support in Alabama



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.